

THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Children in the Wood ;  
OR  
Murder Revenged.



Printed and Sold in London.

THE  
HISTORY OF THE  
CHILDREN IN THE WOOD  
TO  
MURDER REVENGED



Printed and Sold by J. Johnson

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THE HISTORY OF  
*The Children in the Wood.*

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CHAP. I.

Pisaurus seeking a Wife accidentally falls  
in Love with the fair Eugenia.

**I**N times past there lived a gentleman  
whose name was Pisaurus.—Rich he  
was, and endowed with those qualities  
that rendered him most acceptable. He  
wanted nothing to accomplish his earthly  
felicity but a virtuous and loving wife;  
by whom he might have children to in-  
herit his possessions when the cold hand of  
death should close his eyes. Nay, such a  
one he had sought for, but for a great  
time in vain, or at least his fancy had  
not led him to like any but the virtuous  
Eugenia, who in some sense may be said  
to be destined for him, and whom, as he  
was riding to take his pleasure, he ac-  
cidentally espied, as she was standing at  
a door.—Her, at first sight, he both  
liked and loved, though then a stranger  
to him; yet for that time he passed on to

take his recreation, but so powerfull did his fancy move, that all things seemed



d, II to the beauty he had seen ; intent upon which his thoughts were wholly taken up by what means he might get admittance, in order to discover his passion, he knew not, neither was he satisfied whether she was a single woman or married ; but all van, he desired to know that as lovers do, and therefore he moved between hope and fear, flattering himself more especially with what he had wished. And so breaking off his passion for that time, he went home, to consider how he might obtain his desire.



## C H A P . II.

Of Pisaurus finding Means to discover his  
Passion to Eugenia; her consenting,  
and the Marriage appointed



**PISAURUS**, eager to become acquainted with the beautiful Eugenia, in whose face modesty was painted; he propos'd many things to himself, but he liked none, till at last, in a melancholy mood, walking in a very pleasant and delightful grove, he contrary to his expectations, but as he wished, met Eugenia and her maid, who were retired, as it seems their custom was, to keep themselves from the heat of the day, and to hear the pleasant notes of the airy choristers; at the sight of whom he was much surpris'd, but resolv'd not to miss so fair

an advantage. He then accosted the blushing maid, and begged leave to tell his passionate story, while his eyes sparkled with love, and his winning behaviour gave fire to the heart of the beautiful Eugene, in so much, that she admitted his visits as often as he pleased, until in the end love linked their hearts so firm, that they no longer stood at a distance, but appointed the day of marriage.

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### CHAP. III.

Of the Celebration of the Nuptials, and the ominous Presage.

**T**IME having brought the looked for day, the bridegroom with a double train, came to conduct his lovely bride from her chamber to the place where their hands might be joined, as their true hearts were already united. Great were their acclamations of joy, they being every where pronounced the loveliest pair the eye had ever seen. Night coming on, to the satisfaction of the lovers, the bridal chamber was prepared, and sweet music; the following song was sung in the air:

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S O N G.

Happy pair whom love hath join'd,  
Happy, were long days design'd ;  
But, O, I fear a love so great,  
Will prove the envy of some fa'e ;  
Some sullen power will envy you,  
Who to each other are so true.  
Such beauty, love, and virtue join'd,  
Short days on earth do mostly find ;  
For why, the rea'on doth appear,  
A minute's true love is a year.  
Then take your fill of joy and bliss,  
And spend short days in happiness ;  
True to each other in all things,  
Until to heaven you mount on wings.  
Your offspring too are of short date,  
A bale vile wretch for their estate,  
Shall by strange means send them on high,  
To find you out above the sky.

Now this being only taken for a device of their enemies, to quell their nuptial joys, they minded it not, but still enjoyed themselves to the height of their desires, imagining they were happy beyond misfortunes ; in which extasy of imagination we will leave them at present, and say something of the brother, who was as much perplexed as they were overjoyed.

## C H A P. IV.

Of the unsuccessful Projects of Androgus, Brother to Pisauru, which he laid against him, he being desirous of his Estates.

**A**NDROGUS, beginning to despair of getting his brother's estates, cast about, and considered many ways how he might with reason tender his hopes, but found all was dark and difficult. His brother's life, at sometimes, he thought to invade by sundry stratagems; but these, upon a second thought, seemed hazardous, he immediately thought upon sundry expedients; as drugs to occasion abortion, but this prevailed not. So not enduring to cast his eyes upon this most happy pair, he betakes himself for several years to travel into some remote and foreign countries; where we shall leave him for some time, and return to Pisaurus and Eugenia.

CHAP.



## C H A P. V.

Of Cassander and Jane being born; Pisaurus and Eugenia both fall sick, and by what Means.

THE fair Eugenia had by this time ventured so far among the sweets of love, that as she wished, she found herself with child, the first news of which did not a little overjoy Pisaurus; but more especially when he found the fair Eugenia delivered of a fine boy. Great were the congratulations and rejoicings of the gossips and neighbours, and the infant was brought up in the tenderest manner, until it came, by its pretty pattle, to delight the hearts of its parents, and to daddle up and down; when to make up their joys, the beautiful mother was two years after brought to-bed of a fair daughter, which was named Jane, as the boy likewise was Cassander.

Their blessings at home, and their many prosperities abroad, the great increase of their cattle and corn, and what

ever they undertook, pronounced them the happiest pair in all the country; but as fortune being inconstant, commonly makes sudden turns, even when the least expected; so it happened in this case, for having lived to see their children one arrived at five years of age, and the other at three, the father, by what means is not certain, fell into a deep consumption; which increasing on him, rendered him wondrous weak, insomuch that he was given over by all his physicians. The grief of parting with him made so deep an impression on the tender spirits of the fair Eugenia, that she refused to be comforted either by her husband, who strove what in him lay to hush her sorrows, or by her relations. No rule urged by divinity or mortality had at that time force sufficient to work a moderation; all arguments were spent in vain, seeing she must lose a husband she loved so dear, so that through outward weeping, and inward anguish, she at last threw herself into a raging fever, the prevalency of which distemper she was not able to bear, and therefore betook herself to bed with her dear husband, where they lay condoling

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each other, either of them being more sensibly afflicted for each other's pain, than for that they each particularly endured.

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## C H A P. XVI.

Of Androgus's Return; his Visit to his Brother and Sister; and his Dissimulation.

**A**NDROGUS returned, and hearing in what distress the late flourishing couple were, hasted to visit them. Upon entering the chamber where they lay helpless, he seemed to express a true sorrow, and not wanting the art of a real disssembler, shed a few crocodile tears, by which he might make his pretended griefs for real. After some deep-forced sighs, he thus began to condole the deplorable state in which he found them.

Oh! said he, that ever I should live to see this day! that ever my eyes should behold so bad a spectacle; to see you lie upon a bed of languishing sickness, helpless and comfortless; O that death with his icy hand had sealed up these my eyes long since, that without the apprehension

of so great a loss, I might have rest in my grave.

And thereupon he bowed, appearing most tenderly concerned, insomuch that Pisarius and Eugenia, in a manner forgetting their own pain, strove with faint voices to comfort him, desiring him not to grieve, nor be cast down, since their lives were a debt due by nature, and that when they were born they were certainly born to die; and that it was but a little sooner than they expected, if they went to their places of rest; intreating him to live such a life, as when he died they might meet again in bliss, never more to be parted; and that he being as they thought the chief person they might confide in, he, by out-living them, might be a comfort and support of their two babes, which they must leave behind them, to be careful of them, and what should be left to maintain them, when they grew up to maturity. This inwardly pleased Androgus, though a cloud of sorrow and sadness seemed to sit heavy on his countenance; so at that time promising to do all that was desired, he took his leave and departed.



## C H A P. VII.

Pisaurus makes his Will, delivers his two Children to Androgus: He and his Wife die.

**T**HE poor languishing parents finding their end near, and that they must exchange this for another life, the physicians having told them they had not long to live, Pisaurus resolved to set his house in order; whereupon he sent for a notary to set down his bequests; as likewise his neighbours and friends, that he might take his last farewell, who all exceedingly loved him and his virtuous wife for their affability, courteous behaviour, and charity, came weeping about them, and very much deplored the approaching loss.

When Pisaurus had settled all his land, cattle and tenements on his son Cassander, he ordered his little daughter 3000l. to be paid on the day of marriage, and the rents, profits, and interests should go for their keeping. And then proceeding to give legacies and donations to charitable

uses, named Androgus his sole executor, to whom he likewise over and above left a large sum, and the reversion of his children, to reward the pains he was to take. Things being thus ordered, and nothing but weeping eyes about the bed, and seeing the fatal hour draw nigh, Androgus



was sent for, and informed of all that had passed, which he promised to perform. And when the pretty babes were sent for, who by reason of their tender age were insensible of what was about to happen. Being come, the father and mother took them in their arms, and weeping embraced them, in order to take their last farewell of the world ; which having done, and both giving them their blessing, he said, To your care I commit my ten-

der babes to be brought up by you in the fear of their Maker, and in learning such things as are most fit for them. As for myself I am drawing to a period, my thread of life is almost wound off, and I must change this life for another; therefore, when I am laid in the grave, let the babes renew my memory, by being before you; and whenever you look upon them, think on me, to induce you by obligation to a greater kindness towards them, whom I leave to you as a pledge of my love. He would have proceeded, but was prevented by a faintness that obliged his tongue to falter, and Andrognus being about to reply, was prevented by the languishing Eugenia, who making signs, with tears burst out, Oh! brother, you are the only man in the world, that by your promise to support my babes can give me any kind of ease, even in death. Oh! be thou kind unto them, even for his sake who made us all in the world! Be a father and a mother to them when we are dead and gone, when we shall be so separated as not to know what becomes of them, and many a thousand blessings fall on you; but if you injure them

in any thing, remember there is a righteous Judge—and there she stopt; when Androgus, with many imprecations, wished, That neither he nor his might prosper: And thereupon, the father being a little recovered from his faintness, delivered the two pretty babes into his hands, after he had tenderly embraced them, and given them his blessing, the children at the same instant weeping; and so they took their last farewell of each other, and the parents died.

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## C H A P. VIII.

What Thoughts Androgus had about putting to Death his Brother's Children, but had not the Heart or Presence of Mind to do it himself.

**T**HE children being in the possession of Androgus, he for a while committed them to the care of Timefia, his wife, who having children of her own, took nevertheless great delight in those of her brother-in-law, and would be often commending them for their beauty, pret-



ty discourse, and the great hopefulness she saw in them, to her husband, who gave her the hearing, though he began to envy them; yet he hid from her his design to make them away, which the devil put in his heart, as soon as he heard his brother was dead. Many times he debated with himself to drown or smother them, and had effected it, had not his heart smothered him, their talk and pretty smiles baffled his base intended purposes; nor was the fear of having the murder discovered less terrible; so that continuing sometimes in a melancholy dump, she reasoned with him about it, but not being able to get the secret from him, she urged it no farther.

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## C H A P. IX.

Of Androgus meeting with Rawbones and Wouldkill, and of his Agreement with them to murder his Brother's Children.

**O**NE day Androgus being very pensive, as he walked by a wood side he met two sturdy fellows, with grim as-

pects, who scraped an acquaintance with him, and required him to go with them to the next alehouse, which he, after some refusal consented to, and after drinking with them, they demanded the cause of his melancholy ; and being in liquor, he told them the reason was, because there stood a quick hedge between him and his deceased brother's estate.

Is that the cause ? said one of the villains ? Why man, continued he, let that never grieve you ; know you not that a hedge may be removed, nay grubbed up, and made free ? Aye, aye, said the other, it may be managed without the least suspicion. Could it be, said the uncle, I'd give an hundred pounds. By such like discourses they came to an agreement that Androgus should give out that he intended to send them to London, there to be educated by his cousin, and they would convert them in the habit of carriers, and as they passed through a wood, leading to London, they would kill and throw them into a pit ; and the better to blind his wife, he feigned a letter, as sent from a pretended cousin at London, which intimated that she was sister to Eugenis, and

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desired to entertain her little cousins; the plot took, though Timefia strongly opposed it, and the children betimes in the morning were put into the hands of these cruel villains, who sat them on horseback before them, and carried them, as she imagined, towards London.

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## CHAP. X.

Of the Ruffians falling out, and Raw-bones slays Wouldkill, and leaves the Children to perish in the Wood.



**T**HE villains having got the children and the promised reward, kept on, whilst the glad infants, not knowing what

wicked hands they had got in, smiled and discoursed of their nurses, and their playthings, till coming to the wood, they dismounted. The children's pretty tale moved Rawbones, who endeavoured to persuade Wouldkill to save their lives, and leave them to fortune. But he would not consent to that, saying, his bargain was to murder them, and murdered they should be. It shall not be so, said Rawbones, while I wear this sword. It shall, said Wouldkill, and to prevent discovery, thou shalt bear them company if thou do'st oppose it. This must be tried, said Rawbones. Upon this they drew, and after many wounds given on both sides, Wouldkill was slain, and Rawbones covered him with earth and stones.

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## [ C H A P. XI.

Rawbones leaves them in the Wood, where they perish with Hunger.

**R**awbones having hid his comrade, took the two children, who wept to see the fray, and led them about two miles



into the wood, bidding them be of good cheer, and when they cried for victuals, since by that time it was noon, he told them to sit down on the bank, and then he'd go to nurse and fetch them some sugar plumbs. The pretty babes believing him, were a while satisfied, passing the time away with prattling to each other; but it growing late, and he t ey lo ked for



not returning, they began to be very pen-  
sive, yet comforting each other as well as  
they could, till it was dark, and then  
they cried themselves to sleep, but waking  
the next morning, they wandered up and  
down to seek their way out of the wood,  
or find some food, but could neither find  
their way, nor any food, unless black ber-  
ries, dew berries, calvils, and wild apples,

And on these they lived, wandering about from place to place for the space of three days, and then laying themselves upon a mossy bank, with grief and hunger they died; and they were found, at least the small remains of them, some years after, covered over with leaves, and the Robin-Red-Breasts then singing a mournful ditty over them.

## C H A P. XII.

Of God's plaguing Androgus, who after many Afflictions died in Prison.

**A**NDROGUS being informed by Rawbones that the children were murdered, he inwardly rejoiced, seized on the estate which was the children's, and about six months after, he produced a letter from the pretended cousin that they were dead of the small pox. He pretended very great sorrow for their death, nor was Timesia, who loved them dearly, behind in real grief, blaming her husband for suffering the pretty babes to leave her, and shedding many a tear for the loss of the babes, often crying out, O my dear chil-

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dren, why did I part with you, to be thus bereft of my comfort.

Long these pretty babes had not been dead before the avenging hand of God overtook Androgus. In his sleep he often saw demons and spirits in frightful shapes, tilting at him with flaming weapons, yet denying him death, the only comfort he dared to hope for. Mean time a murrain destroyed his cattle, his corn was blasted, caterpillars spoiled his fruits, his barns burnt down by lightening, his two sons lost at sea, and he hated by all men; and lavishing his estate among villains, run largely in debt, and at last was cast into

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prison, where he died unpitied, through want and despair.

## C H A P. XIII.

OF the Murder coming out at the Gallows.

**T**HIS being the miserable end of the wicked Andrugus, a little time after Rawbones was taken in a robbery, and convicted on full proof; but before he died he declared to the clergyman, that he could not leave the world without confessing the murder of his companion Woulkill, and his leaving the children to perish in the wood, with the manner in which he was prevailed on, and the reward he received from their wicked uncle to commit that execrable crime, and upon search soon after his execution, the bones of the children were found near the place where he described.

Thus God punished the shedding of innocent blood.

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